

REMARKS

The present invention provides "self service" data interface between users' personal data devices and a data infrastructure that improves the openness and ease of use of the data infrastructure, thereby enabling wider use of information technology without high costs and uncertainties. In particular, the data interface -- having user-side and infrastructure-side communication interfaces -- includes a "data interface management processor" that is operative to inform a user of a personal data device of the communicative connection(s) of that device to other computer resources through said data interface, thereby enabling user self-service activities.

Claims 21 to 31 are pending. Claim 21 is the only independent claim.

All stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,459,727, issued to G. Vanucci on October 17, 1995 (hereinafter, the "Vanucci reference").

Applicants request reconsideration.

By applicants' prior amendment, applicants emphasized that applicants' "data interface management processor" provided information "that is useful for a user".

In response -- in the current office action -- the examiner observes that: "Vanucci discloses information that is useful for a user (providing with wireless/portable access to permit a user to roam freely over the area served by the wired PBX system, see col. 2, lines 48-67).

Applicants appreciate the examiner's observation. Applicants agree that the term "useful" is subject to interpretation.

To make applicant's intended interpretation clearer, claim 21 is thus amended to clarify that the information provided to the user is "provided in a form handled by the personal data device to communicatively inform said user sufficiently to enable at least diagnose of said at least one of the wired and wireless communication connections".

Express and implicit support for the amendment can be found, for example, at page 8, lines 11 to 12 ("... status information is **provided to** the PDD 10, where it is **displayed or otherwise made available** to the user"); page 3, lines 4 to 8 ("...information from the self-service data interface may be provided **in the form of** a hypertext page that is easily **handled** by a standard browser within the personal data device."); page 6, line 30 ("...**communication** interfaces ..."); page 6, line 9 ("...**inform** the user"); and page 2, lines 24 to 26 ("This **enables** a user to **diagnose** and correct some types of operational problems ..."). No new matter is added.

The Vanucci reference was reviewed.

To the extent one may argue that the "information" referenced in the Vanucci reference may have functional utility, it is clear nonetheless that the Vanucci reference does not teach providing information **in a form** sufficiently comprehensible to a user such that it may be acted upon by the user in accord with applicants' objective of enabling "self-service" functionality. There is no point in the transit of information referenced by the examiner where one skilled in the art would consider said information usefully intelligible to a user.

Claim 21 defines subject matter not anticipated by the Vanucci reference. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21 is requested.

As to claims 22 to 31, applicants acknowledge the examiner's observations. Regardless, claims 22 to 31 are all ultimately dependent on claim 21. Claims 22 to 31 are thus not anticipated by the Vanucci reference. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22 and 31 is also requested.

Conclusion

The pending claims define subject matter neither described nor suggested by the cited art references. The written description, claims, and drawings meet all applicable statutory requirements. The application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Renato M. de Luna
Registration No. 36,780
3COM CORPORATION
350 Campus Drive
Marlborough, MA 01752
Telephone: 508-323-1265

RMD/-

Certificate of Mailing/Transmission (37 CFR 1.8)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

Mailing

☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Electronically

☒ transmitted electronically via EFS to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

December 12, 2006

Renato M. de Luna, Reg. No. 36,780
Date: December 12, 2006